

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/670,306

Applicant(s)

BRUNO, RONALD

Examiner

Inder P. Mehra

Art Unit

2617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment dated: 7/16/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 3-6, 18, 20, 23-24, 26-32, 34-40 and 42 (Renumbered as 1-24 respectively).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to amendment dated: 7/16/2007. based on this Amendment, claims 1, 3-6, 18, 20, 23-24, 26-32, 34-40 and 42 are pending. Claims 2, 7-17, 19, 21-22, 25, 33, 41 and 43 are cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1, 3-6, 18, 20, 23-24, 26-32, 34-40 and 42 are allowed.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record does not disclose, teach or suggest directly, or indirectly the following limitations in combinations with other limitations of the claims, as follows:

As recited by claim 1,

distributing the transmission time slot schedule from the control site to at least one of the plurality of ground stations;

wherein a ground station that receives a time slot allocation assumes management over use of transmission time slots allocated to the ground station by the transmission time slot schedule~ and

wherein the transmission time slot schedule allocates VDL management time slots.

As recited by claim 18,

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transmitting, based upon the assessment, an inbound reservation from the control site to a specific aircraft via one of the plurality of ground stations that identifies a time slot that the aircraft is permitted to use to transmit data to the control site via the plurality of ground stations~
wherein the information base contains information pertaining to each inbound data slot request received, the information including at least one of: a unique identifier of the aircraft making the request; and a priority associated with the data to be transmitted.

As recited by claim 23,

wherein the control site maintains an information base containing a plurality of unique aircraft addresses and status information associated with each of the plurality of unique aircraft addresses;

wherein the control site delegates authority to assign at least one of the plurality of unique aircraft addresses to at least one of the plurality of ground stations; and

wherein the control site updates the status information associated with each of the plurality of unique aircraft addresses based upon information contained in a message received from at least one of the plurality of ground stations.

As recited by claim 30,

wherein at least one of the plurality of ground stations sends a poll response report to the control site upon receiving a poll response from an aircraft wherein the poll response report contains a time of arrival (TOA) of a poll response at the ground station; and

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wherein a ground station receives a handover command from the control site based upon an assessment of TOA values contained in the poll response reports received.

As recited by claim 37,

wherein the control site receives from at least one of the plurality of ground stations a message that includes at least one of a ground station identifier, a unique aircraft identifier, a unique message identifier, a signal time of arrival (TOA) at the receiving ground station and signal quality information as determined by the receiving ground station; and

wherein the control site selects a preferred ground station for use by the control site to transmit a signal to or to receive a signal from a specific aircraft based upon the information received, and wherein the control site selects a preferred ground station based upon TOA and incoming signal quality information to forward an incoming signal received to a control site communication switch.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Inder P. Mehra whose telephone number is 571-272-3170. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8AM to 5PM.


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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Feild can be reached on 571-272-4090. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Inder Pal Mehra 9/22/07

Inder P Mehra
Examiner
Art Unit 2617


JOSEPH FEILD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER